GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:483
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2001
ARREST OF INDIAN FISHERMEN
T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Sri Lankan Navy arrested 31 Indian fishermen in May 2001 as reported in the the newspaper `The Hindu` dated May 14, 2001;

(b) if so, whether the Indian Government have taken up this matter with the Government of Sri Lanka; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the outcome thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) & (c) Government maintain regular contact with Sri Lanka through diplomatic channels for securing the early release and repatriation of Indian fishermen in Sri Lankan custody. The matter is taken up at appropriate levels in both New Delhi and Colombo and is pursued till the fishermen are released and repatriated. On July 11, 2001, the Sri Lanka Government released 22 Indian fishermen including 13 fishermen from among those arrested in May, 2001.